

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A document administration apparatus  
comprising:

document image input means for inputting a  
5 document image;

document discrimination information extraction  
means for extracting document discrimination  
information from the document image input by said  
document image input means;

10 authenticity confirmation information  
generation means for generating authenticity  
confirmation information by performing a  
predetermined conversion process to the document  
discrimination information extracted by said document  
15 discrimination information extraction means;

authenticity confirmation information storage  
means for storing the authenticity confirmation  
information generated by said authenticity  
confirmation information generation means in a  
20 predetermined storage position connected to a  
network; and

storage position information embedding means  
for embedding information indicating the storage  
position into the document image.

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2. A document administration apparatus  
according to Claim 1, wherein said storage position

information embedding means embeds a digital watermark into the document image.

3. A document administration apparatus  
5 according to Claim 1, wherein said authenticity confirmation information generation means generates the authenticity confirmation information by performing hash conversion to the document discrimination information extracted by said document  
10 discrimination information extraction means.

4. A document administration apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said authenticity confirmation information generation means generates  
15 the authenticity confirmation information by performing hash conversion to the document discrimination information extracted by said document discrimination information extraction means and further generating an electronic signature in regard  
20 to a hash value obtained through the hash conversion.

5. A document administration apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said document discrimination information extraction means includes  
25 area indication means for indicating a document discrimination information area in the document image, and extracts as the document discrimination

information a character string obtained by performing character recognition to an image within the document discrimination information area indicated by said area indication means.

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6. A document administration apparatus comprising:

document image input means for inputting a document image;

10 document discrimination information extraction means for extracting document discrimination information from the document image input by said document image input means;

authenticity confirmation information  
15 generation means for generating authenticity confirmation information by performing a predetermined conversion process to the document discrimination information extracted by said document discrimination information extraction means;

20 information extraction means for extracting a digital watermark embedded in the document image input by said document image input means;

access means for accessing a point on a network on the basis of information extracted as the digital  
25 watermark by said information extraction means; and

authenticity confirmation information comparison means for comparing authenticity

confirmation information stored at the point accessed  
by said access means with the authenticity  
confirmation information generated by said  
authenticity confirmation information generation  
5 means.

7. A document administration apparatus  
comprising:

document image input means for inputting a  
10 document image;

document discrimination information extraction  
means for extracting document discrimination  
information from the document image input by said  
document image input means;

15 authenticity confirmation information  
generation means for generating authenticity  
confirmation information by performing a  
predetermined conversion process to the document  
discrimination information extracted by said document  
20 discrimination information extraction means; and

authenticity confirmation information  
comparison means for comparing the authenticity  
confirmation information generated by said  
authenticity confirmation information generation  
25 means with authenticity confirmation information  
previously stored.

8. A document administration apparatus  
comprising:

document image input means for inputting a  
document image;

5 document discrimination information extraction  
means for extracting document discrimination  
information from the document image input by said  
document image input means; and

document discrimination information comparison  
10 means for comparing the document discrimination  
information extracted by said document discrimination  
information extraction means with document  
discrimination information previously stored.

15 9. A document administration method comprising:  
a document image input step of inputting a  
document image;

a document discrimination information  
extraction step of extracting document discrimination  
20 information from the document image input in said  
document image input step;

an authenticity confirmation information  
generation step of generating authenticity  
confirmation information by performing a  
25 predetermined conversion process to the document  
discrimination information extracted in said document  
discrimination information extraction step;

predetermined conversion process to the document  
discrimination information extracted in said document  
discrimination information extraction step; and

an authenticity confirmation information

- 5 comparison step of comparing the authenticity  
confirmation information generated in said  
authenticity confirmation information generation step  
with authenticity confirmation information previously  
stored.

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